

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1172

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MOPS, CG, GB

SUBJECT: GABON DEFENDS PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS IN LIBREVILLE'S DAILY "L'UNION"
FOR TWO DAYS RUNNING HAVE DEFENDED RIGHT OF AFRICA'S
"DEMOCRATIC" STATE TO INTERVENE IN SHABA AND HAVE
CRITICIZED AFRICA'S "PROGRESSIVE" STATE (NOTABLY ANGOLA)
OPPOSING PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 7 EDITORIAL REFUTED "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES'
CLAIMS THAT PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE WILL SERVE TO
SUPPORT DICTATORIAL REGIMES. RAISING QUESTION OF JUST
WHICH REGIMES ARE DICTATORIAL, EDITORIAL PLACED
GABON ABOVE REPROACH. IT QUOTED PRESIDENT BONGO'S
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STATEMENT FROM RECENT PARIS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE
COULD NOT JUDGE DEGREES OF REPRESENTATIVENESS OF
OTHER GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE HE "IS THE EXPRESSION OF
HIS PEOPLE; WAS ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE." IN
CONTRAST, "PROGRESSIVE" REGIMES USE TERMS DEMOCRACY
AND REVOLUTION AS POLITICAL WINDOW DRESSING TO COVER
OVER ARBITRARY ARREST AND OTHER DENIALS OF HUMAN

RIGHTS.

3. GABON FEELS IT CANNOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE A MINORITY ATTEMPTS TO PLUNGE AFRICA INTO CHAOS AND BY SO DOING PLACE CONTINENT UNDER "THE YOKE OF IMPERIALISM". FOR THIS REASON BONGO CALLED FOR CREATION OF PAN AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE.

4. JUNE 8 EDITORIAL SHARPLY ATTACKED ANGOLAN CRITICISM OF AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE ESPECIALLY RADIO LUANDA STORY THAT IDEA OF PAN AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE ORIGINATED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING DURING FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. SUGGESTION IS INSULTING TO BONGO WHO CALLED THE CREATION OF FORCE AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU.

5. EDITORIAL INCLUDED NUMEROUS DIGS AT ANGOLAN REGIME IN PROCESS OF DEFENDING PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE CITING HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS. SINCE N'KRUMAH WAS FIRST TO PROPOSE SUCH A FORCE, EDITORIAL ASKED WHETHER THAT MEANT HE WAS A TOOL OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM JUST AS BONGO IS NOW ACCUSED OF BEING A TOOL OF FRENCH IMPERIALISM. WHY DID ANGOLA IGNORE SENGHOR LAST YEAR WHEN HE PROPOSED CREATING PAN-AFRICAN FORCE? WHY DOES ANGOLA CRITICIZE FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN STATES WHILE 20,000 FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TROOPS REMAIN IN ANGOLA? TO GABON, ANGOLA IS A HYPOCRITICAL LACKEY OF IMPERIALIST POWERS.

6. WHILE NOT MENTIONED OUTRIGHT, SOVIET UNION RECEIVED AN EDITORIAL SLAP ALSO. EDITORS STATED THAT GABON, UNLIKE SOME OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, DOES NOT NEED SUPPORT FROM AK-47'S AND KATIOUCHKA ROCKETS.

7. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IMPLIED THAT DESPITE GABON'S CLOSE TIES TO FRANCE, IT IS THE "PROGRESSIVE" STATS FOSTERING REVOLUTION WHICH ARE TRUE TOOLS OF IMPERIALIST POWERS. GABONESE OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO ACCUSATIONS OF BEING FRANCE'S LACKEY IN AFRICA. END COMMENT. TIENKEN

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